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ABSTRACT

Due largely to outmigration of young people, the nonmetropolitan United States has a lower proportion of people in the prime working ages of 20-44 than do metropolitan areas. Discouraged workers and high levels of work-preventing disabilities have contributed to lower rates of nonmetropolitan labor force participation for each age group between 20 and 64 years of age. Nonmetropolitan residents, particularly in the South, are less educated--as indicated by higher high school drop out rates, fewer years of schooling among adults, and a lower proportion of college-educated adults. Of all the regions, the nonmetropolitan West had the highest percentage of people aged 25-34 and the lowest percentage of people aged 65 and older in 1986. The nonmetropolitan Midwest has the least advantageous age distribution: a low proportion of young adults of labor force age and a high proportion of elderly. Education needs to be a high priority in nonmetropolitan areas. While not a substitute for work experience or specific job-related training, education provides the flexibility and basic tools with which to learn new skills and adapt to changing situations. (NEC)

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FACES AND FUTURE OF THE NONMETRO WORKFORCE

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Abstract. Nonmetro counties are at a disadvantage with regard to its labor force. Due largely to outmigration of young people, the nonmetro United States has a lower proportion of people in the prime working ages of 20-44 than do metro areas. Discouraged workers and high levels of work-preventing disabilities have contributed to the lower rate of nonmetro labor force participation. In addition, nonmetro residents, particularly in the South, are less educated, as indicated by higher high school drop out rates, fewer years of schooling among adults, and a lower proportion of college-educated adults.

Agricultural mechanization triggered an outmigration, mostly of young people, from rural areas, beginning in the late 1800's and lasting through the first half of the 20th century (1, 2).1/ To replace the loss of agricultural employment opportunities, rural areas tried to encourage industry to locate there.

Industry has expanded into the countryside, but less because of the local efforts than because of a search for lower land values, cheaper and often nonunion labor, the interstate highway systems linking rural and urban areas, and communications systems making physical proximity less important (11). Service and recreation industries have also found rural (nonmetropolitan) areas appealing. The result for many areas: increased employment opportunity and reduced dependence on traditional forms of rural employment, such as agriculture, forestry, and mining.

The increasingly diversified nonmetro economy made it possible for many urban people to move to nonmetro areas, and they did so at an unprecedented rate in the 1970's. Yet, noneconomic reasons (12, 10) were largely behind this movement, which ended in the early 1980's as quietly as it began (5). During the sudden rural growth of the 1970's it was clear that the migration of rural youth to metro areas slowed but never ceased despite increased job opportunities and growth in many rural communities (7).

Responses to questionnaires given to high school seniors in nonmetro areas on their intentions after high school showed that the movement of industry

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1/ Underscored numbers in parentheses cite sources listed in the References section at the end of the chapter.

into nonmetro areas was successful in only a limited number of situations in convincing the students to remain in their own hometown to work after finishing school (9).

These young people are likely to be accurate in their perception that metro jobs pay better than those they can find in a nonmetro area. Unfortunately, because of lower education levels of most nonmetro youths, they will tend to be at a disadvantage with metro youths in competing for the best metro jobs (9).

The pull of a wider world of opportunities may be too strong to stem the outmigration of talented young people from rural areas (3). Those who leave are more likely than those who stay to be young, well-educated, and working in a white collar job (8).

The attraction of people to rural areas is not primarily economic. Because of their size, most metro areas have an efficient network of industries and businesses that cannot be matched in a nonmetro area. A large proportion of young, well-educated people will always be attracted to the economic opportunities of metro areas.

Nevertheless, many people who choose to live in less populated areas find a pace and style of life that for them outweighs the greater economic opportunities of a metro area. Those who make this choice should not become victims of neglect in public policy. Local and Federal Government attention must be paid to fostering sufficient economic opportunity in these areas to keep poverty and unemployment low. Job opportunities and higher wages in nonmetro areas would not only slow outmigration and attract new

residents, but would provide incentive for increased education among nonmetro residents.

The first step in fostering economic opportunity is to assess the current status of the nonmetro labor supply. We will describe the current regional distribution of human resources as they apply to labor supply and will project the likely future distribution if current migration patterns persist, based on age structure and migration trends. We detail how the characteristics of the labor supply differ from those in metro areas, and how nonmetro areas differ from each other in the Northeast, Midwest, South and West.

We used county-level data from the 1980 decennial census and individual responses from the 1986 Current Population Survey. These enabled us to assess job-related characteristics of the population of labor force age, the extent of work-related restrictions, and the future labor supply based on the age composition and population stability of an area.

Nonmetro Areas Short on Young Adults

Adults aged 25-34 form perhaps the most promising part of the U.S. labor force. Career training usually completed, with several years of work experience to their credit, these young adults will be the ones to move up the ranks in the next 20 years as the decisionmakers and backbone of the economy. Income that they generate will support the dependent population, primarily children and the elderly.

By 1986, most of the baby boom generation were young adults in this 25-34 age group (table 1). To the end of the century, the United States will have a

balanced dependency ratio in part because of the size of that group; the number of people of income-producing age (18-64 years) will be large relative to children and elderly. Nonmetro areas are at a disadvantage, however. They have a significantly lower proportion among potential workers (those age 16 and over) of young people and adults between the ages of 20 and 44 and significantly higher proportions of those over 64 than do metro areas. 2/ In nonmetro areas, baby boomers aged 25-34 only narrowly outnumber retirement-age people, those over 64 years old, while in metro areas baby boomers outnumber retirement-age people by almost 10 percent.

A similar pattern occurs in each of the four regions, with the nonmetro part of some regions, notably the South, worse off than others (table 1). The largest concentration of baby boomers is in the West where they constitute 25.7 percent of the metro population and 23.1 percent of the nonmetro population. Compared with the other regions, the West has the smallest percentage of residents over age 64 in both metro and nonmetro areas, due largely to its attraction to young adults. If the West continues to attract and retain young adults, it will clearly be the region with the healthiest economic position by having a large pool of potentially productive young workers with a fairly small proportion of children and elderly to support.

Nonmetro Areas Lose People to Metro Areas in the 1980's

Although more people moved from metro areas into nonmetro areas than in the opposite direction in the 1970's, trends of the 1980's have reverted to the

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2/ All metro-nonmetro or regional differences discussed in this paper have been measured using a difference of means or Chi-square test (6) and found to be significantly different.

more familiar pattern of net population loss for nonmetro areas. Estimates from Census sample data (the Current Population Survey) placed the net loss for nonmetro areas due to migration to metro areas at 351,000 between 1983 and 1984 and at 632,000 in 1985-86. Preliminary examination of the data for 1986-87 indicates that the trend is continuing with an even greater nonmetro loss than in the previous year.

To understand more about the nature of this loss, we calculated net migration rates for 1985-86 for the nonmetro portions of each region according to whether the exchange was with metro areas within the region or outside the region. The migration rates were also assessed by age group and by educational level to determine if nonmetro areas were left poorer in terms of a youthful, well-educated work force.

The highest rates of gross migration and of net migration loss for nonmetro areas in all regions occurred in the exchange with the nearby metro areas of the same region. Age-specific net migration rates showed that for all regions, nonmetro areas had the heaviest net loss among adults under age 25 (table 2). In part, the high rate of loss of people age 20-24 to metro areas, particularly metro areas in the same region, was due to the graduation of college students originally from metro areas.

The pattern of loss varied among regions. The nonmetro Midwest had the smallest loss of young people age 16-19 and was the only region to experience no loss of adults age 25-34 to the metro areas within the region. In view of the farm crisis of the early 1980's and the concentration of family farms in the Midwest, this is a strong rate of retention fostered in part by the difficulty farmers face in pulling up stakes when their land is hard to sell,

and also in part by the depressed economy of midwestern metro areas with economic ties to the surrounding rural areas.

Northeastern nonmetro areas showed the highest rates of loss across all age groups to metro areas both within and outside the region. The loss of adults age 25-34 by northeastern nonmetro areas to metro areas in the region was nearly as high as the loss of young people age 20-24, the age group most likely to have a high rate because of college graduation.

Although the nonmetro South lost young adults under age 35 to southern metro areas, it showed a small gain of people aged 45-64. Many of the adults in this age range are near the end of their working lives but still affect the potential productiveness of additions to the nonmetro South's work force.

While the West's rate of nonmetro loss to the region's own metro areas was not as great as the Northeast's, the pattern was much the same. The loss of people was heaviest among adults under 35, with smaller but significant losses of middle-aged adults 35-54. If such loss continues, the nonmetro West's advantage over the other regions in having a high proportion of its population as young or middle-age adults will be substantially diluted.

Education Enhances Adaptability

Education plays a fundamental role in shaping a population's ability to devise new solutions to problems, adapt to change, and learn the skills necessary for a variety of jobs. The education level of adults in an area provides a picture of how versatile the existing labor force can be for companies searching for a good location. An industry will often locate in a

nonmetro area only to import many of the upper echelon workers from other areas, leaving the lower level jobs to long-term community residents (4). Higher levels of education in a nonmetro area enhance the population's chance of meeting economic challenges, knowing how to create or attract new jobs, and compete for higher paying jobs.

We measured the 1980 level of education for nonmetro counties in three ways. For adults aged 25 or older, we examined average education in terms of years of school completed, as well as the percentage of the population that completed 4 or more years of college. For young people age 16 to 21, we looked at the high school dropout rate. We used county data to be able to identify geographic patterns below the regional level.

Nonmetro Behind Metro in Education

By all three education measures, nonmetro areas trailed metro areas (table 3). The average education for adults in nonmetro counties was 10.9 years, versus 11.6 years for metro adults. In addition, the high school dropout rate for young people was 16.9 percent for nonmetro counties, compared with 15 percent for metro counties. Higher nonmetro dropout rates foretell a continuing disparity in education levels between metro and nonmetro areas. At the upper end of the education scale, nonmetro areas trailed metro areas in the percentage of college-educated adults, with an average of 9.2 percent in nonmetro counties and 12.8 percent in metro counties. As a basic tool of the work force, nonmetro education needs to be upgraded in any plan to increase nonmetro economic opportunity.

Low levels of average education were most concentrated in specific areas of the

nonmetro South (fig. 1). Appalachia contained a solid block of counties with low average education. In the Great Smokies and Blue Ridge Mountains and to the east of the Appalachian Mountains, with somewhat better farmland, sits a less concentrated band of low-education counties. Both of these areas have a primarily white population.

East of the Blue Ridge chain, in south-central Virginia and northeastern North Carolina, sits a cluster of low-education counties, with primarily black populations. The economy of this cluster centers on tobacco and peanut farming. In the southern and central portions of Georgia and Alabama sits another group of low-education counties scattered throughout the Coastal Plain, an old cotton-farming region with a large proportion of blacks.

Also low in education was the Mississippi River Delta, the fertile farmland on the Arkansas-Mississippi border, running down into northern Louisiana. The population there is comprised primarily of blacks, many of whom are farm-workers. Just north of the Delta lies a group of low-education counties populated by white inhabitants of the Ozarks. In the southern foot of Louisiana is a group of low-education counties whose residents are both black and white and dominated by the Louisiana French culture. Southwestern Texas has a large block of primarily Hispanic counties with low average education.

The largest concentrations of low nonmetro education in 1980 were in counties with a high minority population. The notable exception here is the white population of Appalachia. Low average education of adults over age 25, points to an ingrained problem, one that has persisted over several generations.

Our second measure of education, the high school dropout rate in 1980 for

young people aged 16-21, reveals potential problems in some areas. Yet in many nonmetro counties where the average education of adults is low, the high school dropout rate of young people is also low. A striking example of such an area of paradox is Arkansas side of the the Mississippi Delta. By comparing figures 1 and 2, one can see that although average education of adults was low in the Arkansas counties bordering the Mississippi River, the high school dropout rate of their young people was not correspondingly high. Despite the low education levels among adults in the Coastal Plain of Alabama and Georgia, the young people in Alabama and to some extent in Georgia were either enrolled in or had graduated from high school. The situation was similar in the tobacco- and peanut-farming areas of Virginia and North Carolina. A word of caution, however: because many rural blacks attend high school at somewhat older than usual ages, the dropout rate in rural black counties may be somewhat depressed.

Southwestern Texas and Appalachia showed little advancement in the education of their people; most counties had a high dropout rate. Young people in the Indian counties clustered in the corners of northeastern Arizona, southeastern Utah, and northwestern New Mexico followed in their parents' low-education status.

Scattered throughout the West, in central Oregon, Montana, and South Dakota are Indian counties with a high dropout rate that did not appear in the education group. The Indian adults also had low education levels, but because the Indians had a relatively young population, better-educated older whites predominated in the counties' adult education measure, whereas the younger Indians predominated in the measure of high school dropouts.

The dropout rate was also high in non-Hispanic parts of Texas, indicating new problems in predominantly white Texas counties without low adult education. New problems may also be foreseen in northeastern Alabama and northern Georgia, where the dropout rate was high even though adult education was not low. Most of these Alabama and Georgia counties have a blue-collar, white population and a manufacturing economy. The potential of these counties to have education problems should be further examined.

In sum, counties with high proportions of Hispanic and Indian minorities, as well as the white counties in Appalachia, continued with low education levels as evidenced by their high dropout rate. Some Southern counties with black, farm-oriented populations may be reducing their traditionally low education in future years by encouraging young people to remain in high school.

The primary regional concentrations of nonmetro residents with a college education were in northern New England, particularly Vermont and New Hampshire, and in the Rocky Mountains portion of the West (fig. 3). While some of the concentration stemmed from the influx of highly educated metro residents in the 1970's, much of it is native. The Mormons of Utah and the southern part of Idaho have a strong tradition of education. Western Colorado has a longstanding history of higher education for its people. Hawaii appears because of its highly educated Asian and white populations. Alaska's nonmetro concentration of college-educated people is due in part to the tendency of older whites to move away, leaving the relatively well-educated younger people who are willing to cope with the harsh climate in order to take advantage of the economic opportunity available in Alaska. Most of the isolated high-education counties scattered throughout the country are home to State or private colleges.

Loss of College-Educated Adults Highest for Nonmetro Northeast and West

From 1985-86, both the nonmetro Northeast and West experienced heavy losses of people with 4 or more years of college to the metro areas in their own regions (table 4). In the West, the net loss began with high school graduates and was greater with each higher step of education, while the Northeast's relationship of population loss with educational attainment was not as direct. People with some college education were lost from the Northeast at a slower rate than either those without a high school diploma or high school graduates.

Gains and losses in the Midwest were under 1 percent for most education groups, with loss of college-educated people to metro areas higher at -1.6. The South's greatest loss to metro areas was of residents with some college education. Both the Midwest and South had moderately high gross rates of migration in all education groups, movement not readily apparent from their low net migration rates.

South Shows Sharpest Decline in Labor Force Participation with Age

More than half of all women and about three-fourths of all men were in the labor force in 1986. Although the labor force participation rate is higher among men than women, the rate for men has been slipping downward while that for women has been inching upward. Labor force participation peaks among those 25-44 years old (table 5). About 80 percent of both metro and nonmetro persons in this age group participated in the labor force.

Labor force participation drops quickly with age after this peak period. In the 55-64 age group, a fifth fewer people were in the labor force than among those 45-54 years old, while the rate for people of retirement age, 65 and over, drops to about 11 percent. For every age group except those 65 and over, the labor force participation rate for nonmetro areas is slightly lower than for metro areas, due in part to higher proportions of discouraged workers and people with work-preventing disabilities.

The nonmetro South showed the sharpest regional decline in labor force participation with advancing age, beginning with the 35-44 year olds. Part of the reason for this greater rate of decline may be the higher work disability found in the South, which may reflect the higher percentage of people working in high-risk jobs, such as mining, or poor health and health care in the region. The nonmetro Midwest had a fairly high participation rate for retirement-age people, possibly because farmers tend to work well into their later years.

Involuntary Part-time Workers More Prevalent in Nonmetro Areas

Nonmetro workers are more likely to be part-timers than metro workers. Part-time work (less than 35 hours per week) can be either voluntary or involuntary. Voluntary part-time workers do not want or are unavailable for full-time work. Women are more likely than men, and older persons more likely than younger persons, to prefer part-time work. Persons who are working part-time involuntarily usually do so because no full-time work is available. Involuntary part-time workers can be classified as part of the underemployed.

About two-thirds of all part-time workers were voluntary in 1985, according to Census sample data. Nonmetro part-time workers were more likely to be involuntary part-timers, with 30 percent of metro and 39 percent of nonmetro part-time workers wanting full-time work. Of nonmetro regions, the South had the highest proportion of involuntary part-time workers, with the West close behind.

Sixty-eight percent of all part-time workers were women in 1986, regardless of metro or nonmetro residence. Although metro and nonmetro men were similar in their tendency to be part-time employees, metro women were less likely than nonmetro women to work part-time (fig. 4). Nonmetro women in the South were least likely to be employed part-time, while there was no significant difference between nonmetro men of the four regions in their propensity to work part-time.

Nonmetro Residents More Likely to be Discouraged Workers

Discouraged workers make up another facet of underemployment. People who want a regular job, but have given up looking for one because they believe that no work is available or that no one would hire them due to personal characteristics such as lack of schooling or age (ill health and disability not included) are not counted in unemployment statistics because they are not actively seeking employment.

Nearly 10 percent of the nonmetro population 16 years or older were classified as discouraged workers in 1986, while only 5.2 percent of the metro population were in this category. The higher prevalence of both involuntary part-time

workers and discouraged workers in the nonmetro United States points up the need for greater economic opportunity in nonmetro areas for these potential full-time workers.

Work Disability More Common in Nonmetro Areas

More than 4 percent of the U.S. population 16-64 years old were not in the labor force in 1985 because of a work disability. 3/ A work disability can be mental or physical, and it varies by social and economic characteristics. Men tend to have a higher level of work disability than women, and the rate is likely to be higher for older persons than for younger ones. Blacks are twice as likely as whites to be work disabled. The reasons behind work-preventing disability include having worked in high-risk jobs and having poor health and few nearby health care facilities.

Work disability varies by residence, with the U.S. nonmetro population having a higher average proportion of disabled persons than the metro population (fig. 5). This U.S. metro-nonmetro disparity is driven primarily by the South where disability rates are highest. The southern rate of disability is about 5 percent in metro areas, and about 8 percent in nonmetro areas.

Part of the greater rate of southern disability was due to the higher proportion of blacks and their greater risk of work disability, although southern rates were high for both races. Poor health care and high risk mining form another part of the explanation for higher southern work disability.

3/ Work disability is defined as a health condition which lasted 6 or more months and which prevented a person from working at a job for which they were qualified.

Nonmetro Mothers as Likely to Work as Metro Mothers

Women were once considered an unreliable part of the work force because they were likely to interupt or give up outside work when they had children. Regardless of age and presence of children, the proportion of mothers who work has increased significantly in the past 25 years. Today, neither marital status nor residence solely determines whether or not a mother works. Mothers in female-headed families are more likely to work than mothers in married-couple families. All women with only older children (age 6-17) are more likely to work than women who have children under age 6.

By 1970, nonmetro mothers with children under age 18 were just as likely as their metro counterparts to be in the labor force. About 30 percent of both metro and nonmetro mothers of children under 6 were in the labor force, and by 1980 the figure had risen to more than 40 percent. In 1986, more than half of metro and nonmetro mothers with children under 6, and about 60 percent of mothers with children age 6 and over, worked outside the home.

Conclusions

With regard to the human resources of the labor force examined here, the nonmetro areas of the United States are at a disadavantage. The nonmetro U.S. has seen a net loss of people, particularly of young adults, to metro areas for each year since 1982-83. By 1986, nonmetro areas had a significantly lower proportion of adults between the ages of 20 and 44 and a higher proportion of people over age 55 than did metro areas. Net migration rates by age in 1985-86 show that this older age distribution is becoming older as the decade

progresses. In part because of higher work disability and higher proportions of discouraged workers, nonmetro labor force participation rates were lower than metro rates for each age group between 20-64.

The nonmetro areas of the four U.S. regions differed in the level of human resources that they can draw on for their workforce. Western nonmetro counties appeared to be in the best overall position, while the South fell short on many measures.

Of all the regions, the nonmetro West had the highest percentage of people age 25-34, and the lowest percentage of people age 65 and older in 1986, although the West's relatively high net rate of outmigration of young adults age 16-34 in 1985-86 may indicate that its advantage is diminishing. The nonmetro Midwest has the least advantageous age distribution: a low proportion of young adults of labor force age and a high proportion of elderly.

The Rocky Mountain West had the highest concentration of college-educated people in 1980. This western advantage may have been diluted somewhat, as indicated by relatively high net outmigration of college-educated people from the nonmetro West during 1985-86. Similarly, northeastern nonmetro areas, some of which had a fairly high 1980 level of college education, also had a relatively high net loss of college-educated people during 1985-86.

The nonmetro South had the steepest decline of labor force participation with advancing age. Part of the explanation for the lower participation rate may be that the nonmetro South also had the highest percentage of counties with above average work disability, a condition that tends to increase with age.

By all education measures, the South had the greatest disadvantage as of 1980. Attention paid to upgrading the education of the people in the Coastal Plain of Alabama and Georgia, the Mississippi Delta, and in Appalachia would have far-reaching effects. At the same time, more higher level jobs in these areas would make the reward for increased education more tangible.

In all nonmetro areas that have low levels of human resources, effort made to ensure that labor force opportunities exist to attract or hold people will raise the area's quality of human resources. New businesses coming into many nonmetro counties may have to bring in upper level workers. However, with time, the incentive of higher wages should induce greater numbers of young adults to stay in school or go back to school for more training. Education needs to be a high priority in nonmetro areas. While not a substitute for work experience or specific job-related training, education provides the flexibility and basic tools with which to learn new skills and adapt to changing situations.

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Table 1—Percentage distribution of the population of labor force age, by region and residence, 1986

Residence	Total 16 and over	16–19 years	20–24 years	25–34 years	35–44 years	45–54 years	55–64 years	65 years and over
	Thousands	Percent of total						
U.S. total	181,034	8.0	11.0	23.2	18.0	12.5	12.2	15.1
Metro	140,187	7.9	11.3	23.9	18.2	12.5	11.9	14.2
Nonmetro	40,847	8.4	10.1	20.8	17.1	12.5	13.2	18.1
Northeast	38,834	7.9	10.6	21.7	17.6	12.7	12.9	16.5
Metro	34,292	7.8	10.6	21.9	17.5	12.7	13.0	16.3
Nonmetro	4,542	8.4	10.3	20.3	18.3	12.3	12.2	18.2
Midwest	44,457	8.4	11.1	23.5	17.7	11.9	12.3	15.1
Metro	31,533	8.4	11.5	24.3	18.4	12.0	11.9	13.5
Nonmetro	12,924	8.6	9.9	21.7	16.1	11.5	13.3	19.0
South	61,641	8.0	11.0	22.8	17.7	12.8	12.1	15.5
Metro	43,975	7.9	11.4	24.1	18.0	12.7	11.6	14.4
Nonmetro	17,666	8.2	10.2	19.5	17.1	13.3	13.4	18.3
West	36,102	7.5	11.4	25.3	19.0	12.6	11.3	12.8
Metro	30,387	7.4	11.7	25.7	19.2	12.6	11.0	12.4
Nonmetro	5,715	8.2	9.8	23.1	18.0	12.4	13.1	15.2

Source: Current Population Survey, March 1986.

Table 2—Nonmetro areas show greatest loss to metro areas due to net outmigration among young adults in 1985–86

Nonmetro region	16–19 years	20–24 years	25–34 years	35–44 years	45–54 years	55–64 years	65+ years
			Percent 1/				
Northeast	-4.00	-9.86	-8.28	-4.40	-3.61	-1.77	-1.19
Midwest	-1.44	-6.34	.28	-1.57	-.80	-.12	.54
South	-2.96	-3.64	-1.77	-.36	.81	1.80	.19
West	-3.17	-6.16	-4.21	-2.13	-1.53	.40	-.34
United States:							
Exchange within region	-2.88	-4.89	-2.20	-.79	.06	.30	.01
Exchange outside region	.26	-.65	-.03	-.31	-.55	.32	.07
Total net exchange	-2.62	-5.54	-2.23	-1.10	-.49	.62	.08

1/ Net migration rates for nonmetro areas.

Source: Current Population Survey, March 1986.

Table 3—Mean county values of selected education measures by metro and nonmetro residence, 1980

Residence	Adult education	High school drop out rate	college educated
	Years	Percent	
Metro	11.6	15.0	12.8
Nonmetro	10.9	16.9	9.2
United States	11.0	16.5	10.1

Source: Census of Population, 1980.

Table 4—Nonmetro college-educated residents tended to move to metro areas in 1985-86

Nonmetro region	Education level			
	Less than high school	High school	Some college	College and beyond
		Percent 1/		
Northeast	-3.45	-4.62	-.93	-6.86
Midwest	.17	-.12	-.21	-1.60
South	.42	-.19	-1.65	-.63
West	2.21	-2.66	-2.59	-4.54
United States:				
Exchange within region	.18	-.84	-1.35	-2.27
Exchange outside region	-.01	-.19	0	-.33
Total net exchange	.17	-1.03	-1.35	-2.60

Net migration rate for nonmetro areas.

1/ Rates calculated only for adults age 25 and over.

Source: Current Population Survey, March 1986.

Table 5—Percentage of labor force participation, by age, region, and residence, 1986

Residence	16 years and over		Participation rate						
	Number in Labor Force	Participation rate	16-19 years	20-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years and over
	Thousands	Percent	Percent						
U.S. total	179,944	64.5	50.8	77.1	82.4	83.0	78.1	53.7	11.1
Metro	139,271	65.7	51.7	77.2	82.6	83.3	79.1	55.0	10.9
Nonmetro	40,673	60.6	48.0	76.4	81.4	82.1	74.9	49.9	11.7
Northeast	38,744	62.9	47.9	75.4	81.1	81.9	78.3	57.3	10.7
Metro	34,210	62.9	47.3	74.7	80.9	81.5	78.4	58.2	10.6
Nonmetro	4,534	62.6	51.7	80.4	82.8	84.2	77.4	50.8	11.6
Midwest	44,345	65.4	54.7	77.6	82.4	84.2	78.8	56.3	11.2
Metro	31,448	66.8	55.7	78.1	82.7	84.1	79.0	56.6	10.0
Nonmetro	12,897	62.2	52.2	75.9	81.6	84.5	78.4	55.6	13.2
South	61,140	63.6	49.6	78.4	83.3	82.7	76.5	49.3	11.2
Metro	43,527	65.7	51.9	78.9	83.8	83.8	79.2	50.9	11.4
Nonmetro	17,613	58.4	44.1	76.9	81.7	79.9	69.8	45.8	10.9
West	35,715	66.6	51.1	75.9	82.1	83.4	80.1	53.9	11.2
Metro	30,086	67.5	52.0	76.5	82.6	83.5	79.7	55.0	11.3
Nonmetro	5,629	62.3	46.9	72.8	79.1	82.5	82.3	48.8	10.8

Source: Current Population Survey, March 1986.

Figure 1--Average nonmetro education is lowest in South (adults at least 25 years old), 1980

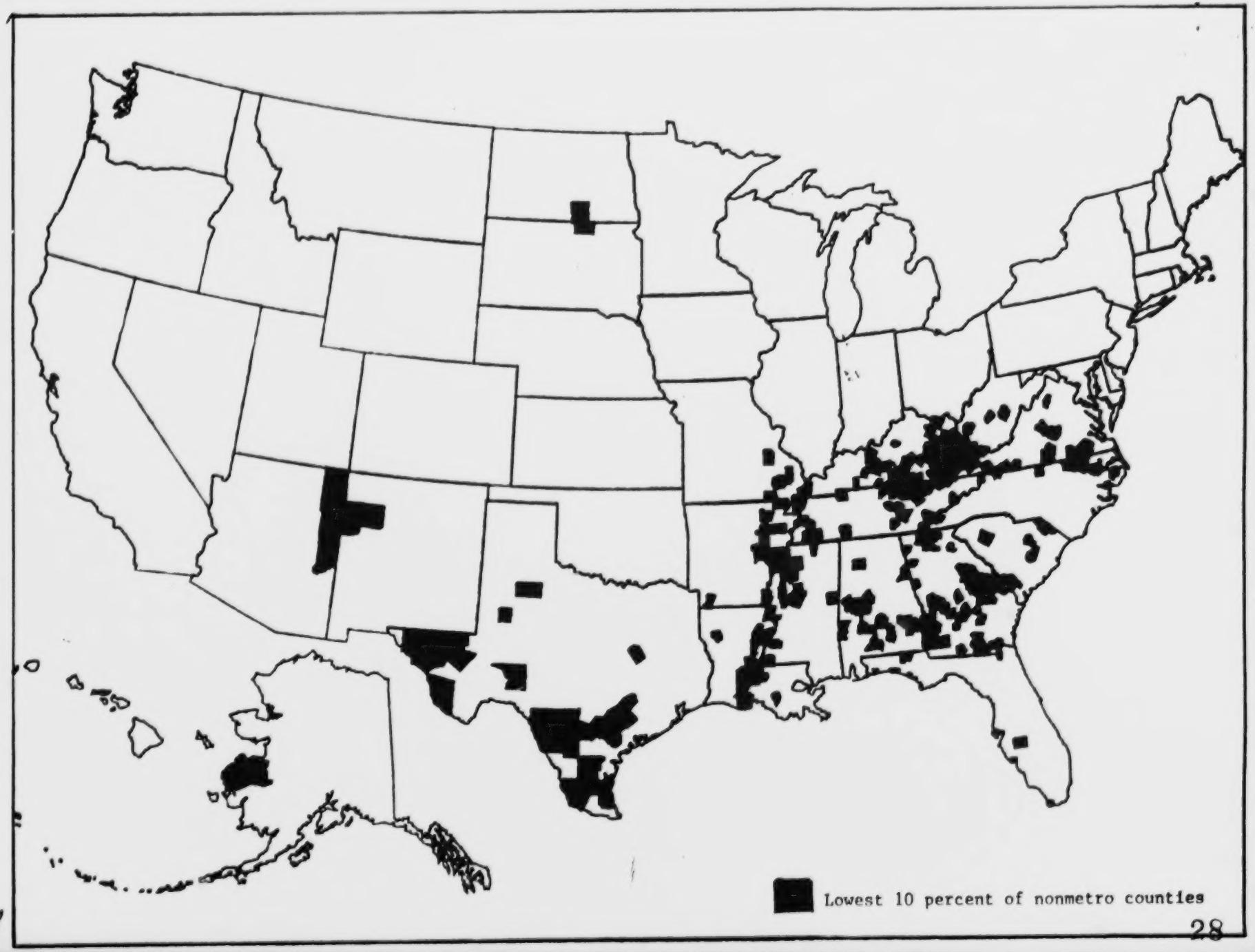

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Figure 2--Highest nonmetro high school dropout rate is in South and Southwest (ages 16-21), 1980

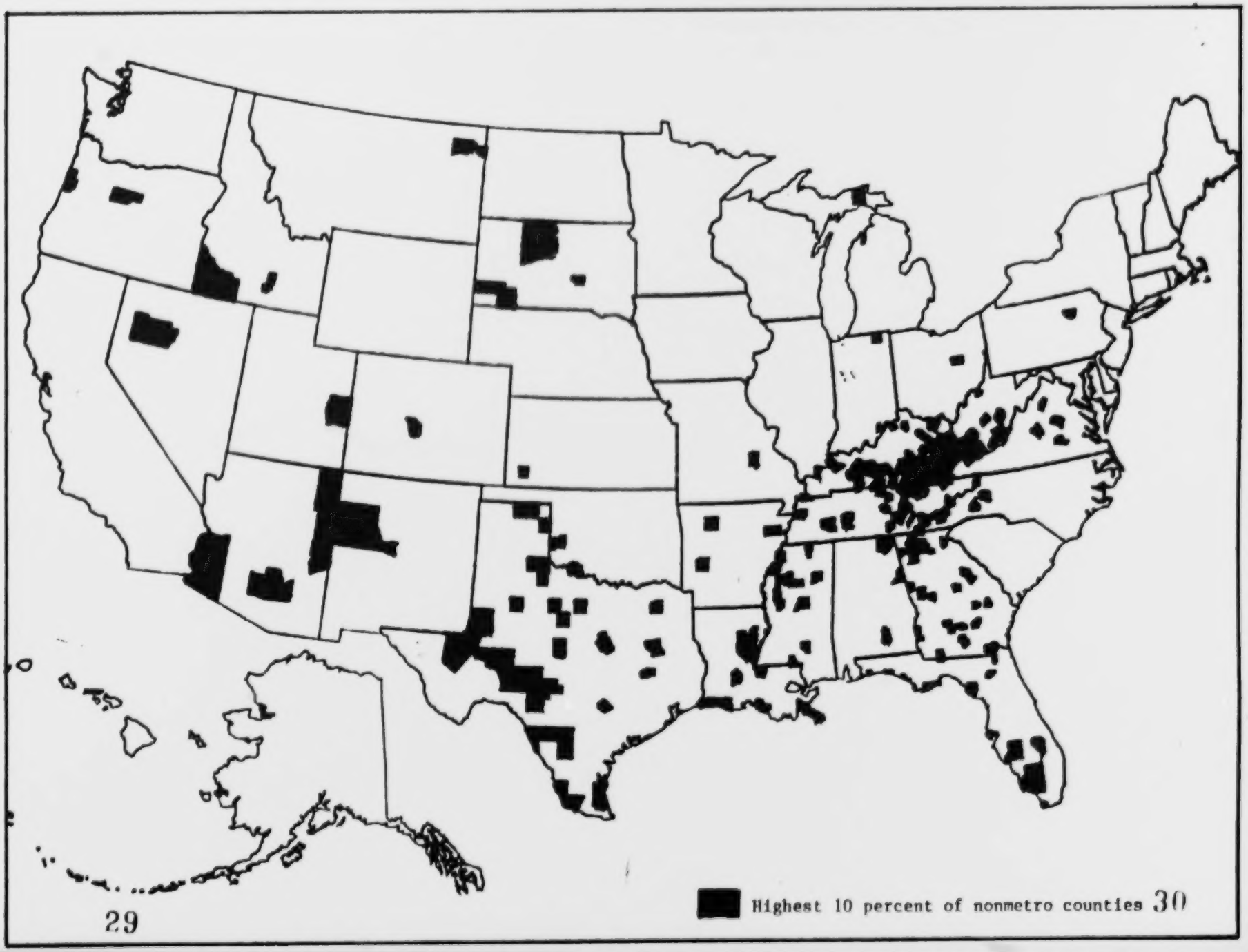

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Figure 3--Nonmetro residents with college education is highest in New England and Rocky Mountain West, 1980

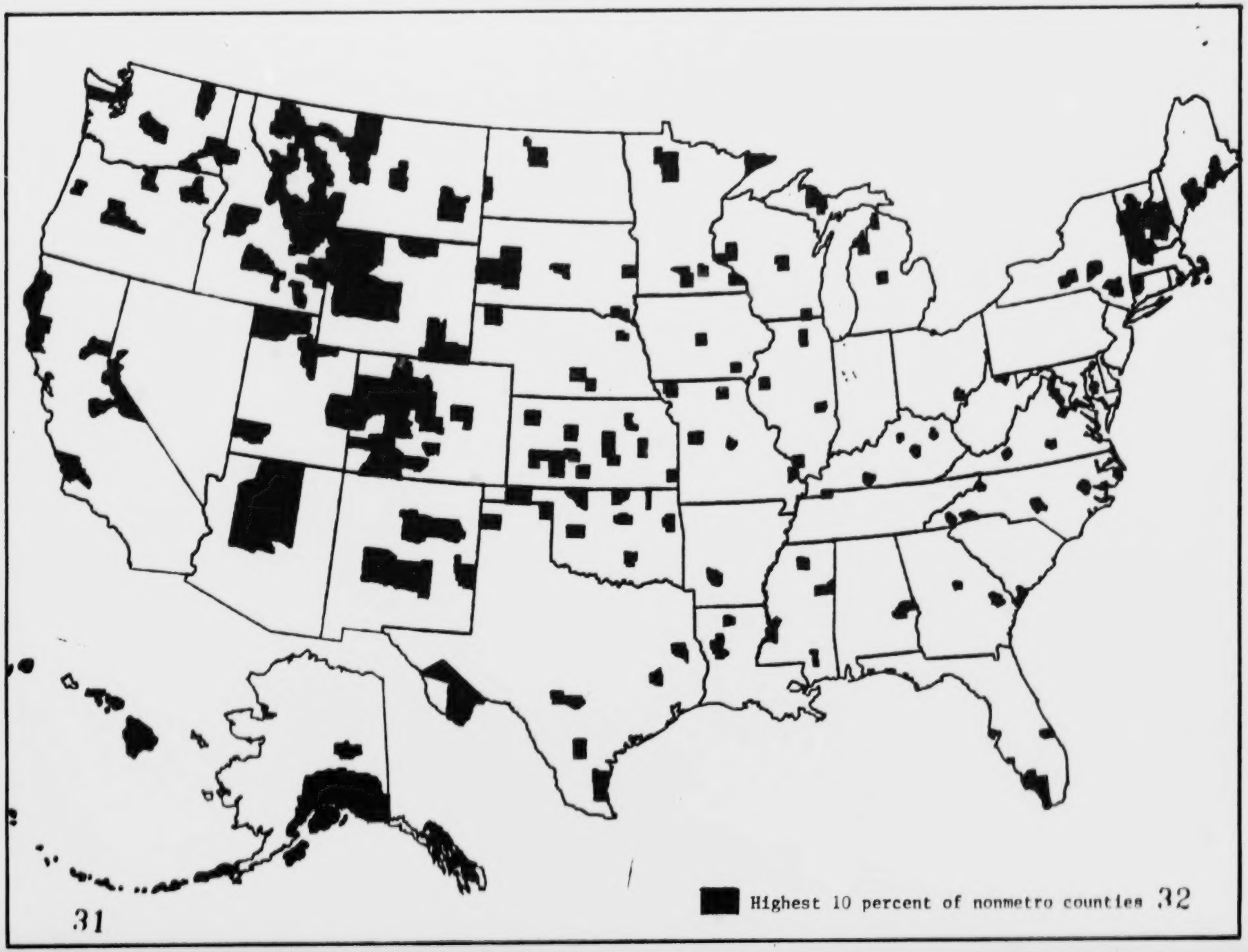

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Figure 4-- Percentage of the labor force working part-time by sex and residence, 1986

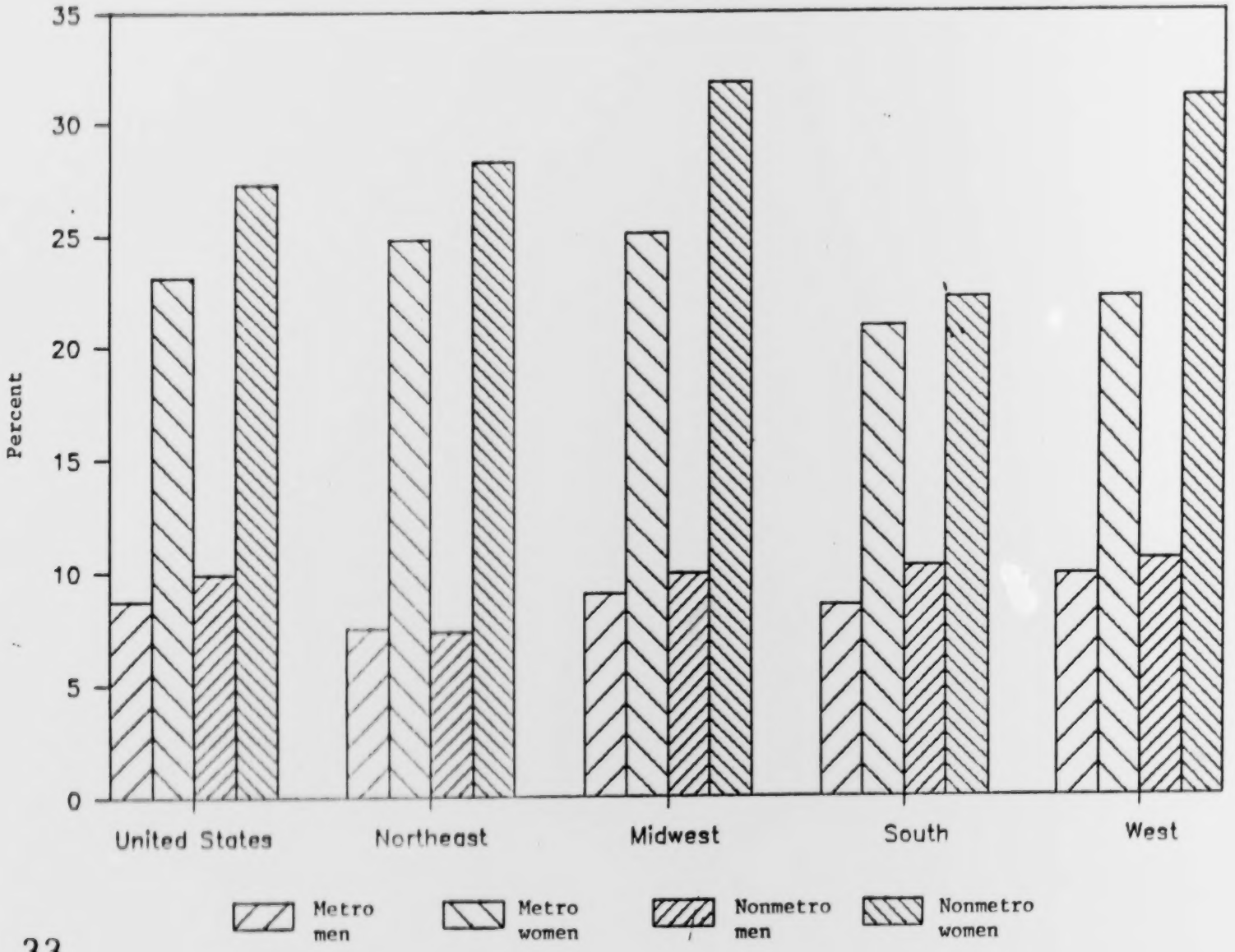

Figure 5-- Prevalence of work-preventing disabilities, by residence, 1985